

IRIS takes strides in preventing discrimination in sports

The IRIS project took a grassroots approach to stopping discrimination in sports, engaging young athletes and their mentors to promote values of acceptance and fair play

The IRIS project was a response to the prevalence of racism and discrimination in professional sports. It used innovative approaches to help coaches and physical education teachers identify underlying problems associated with violence, racism and discrimination, providing them with tools for applying these approaches at the grassroots level in everyday sports activities. The goal was to create sensitivity among communities, families, young athletes, professionals in education and sports, and policymakers.

By changing attitudes locally, the project hoped to change them in professional sports as well.

To kick off the project, physical education teachers, coaches, and athletes from Greece, Bulgaria, Finland, Hungary, and Spain were asked to define discrimination and its forms. At this stage, participants were given information about different types of discrimination and resources for dealing with cases of discrimination.

A project organiser said:

“The targets of the project were the intermediate actors, namely the physical education teachers and the grassroots sports club coaches. Their role is of utmost importance, since they interact on a daily basis with young athletes and students and thus have an obligation to inculcate the ethical values of sport, to shape their character and personality and generally to help them improve their attitude towards their teammates.”

In addition to gaining awareness of discrimination in youth sports, participants were invited to propose measures to prevent future discrimination. Through IRIS, children also learnt more about acceptance and fair play.

Looking ahead, the project will continue to be promoted through training modules and educational tools.

More information

Project website:
www.iris-sport.eu/en

The Erasmus+ Project Results Platform:
<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects>



Photo: © RCVTLLL

Erasmus+

Field: Sport

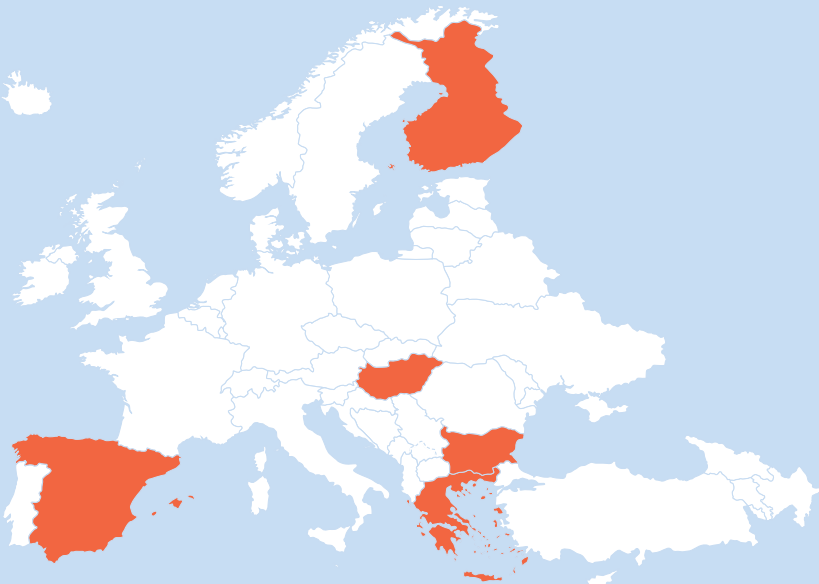
Action: Strategic Partnerships

Key facts and figures

	Participants: 1,800		Countries: 5
	EU grant: € 472,792		Project duration: 2015-2016

Project title

IRIS – Innovative learning Resources to foster equal participation In grassroots Sports, dealing with discrimination, racism and violence incidents



Lead organisation

Name: Region of Western Greece – Regional Center of Vocational Training and Lifelong Learning, Greece (RCVTLLL)

Location: Patras-Achaia, Greece

Website: www.pde.gov.gr

Partners

Shumenski Universitet Episkop Konstantin Preslavski, **Bulgaria**; Jyväskylä Yliopisto, **Finland**; Hellenic Open University, **Greece**; Oltaalom Sportegyesület, **Hungary**; Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, **Spain**